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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Monopolies are one of the market failures of capitalism. As such, it is one of the governments prime tasks to prevent them from forming and to dismantle them when they do materialize. The supression and elimination of monopolies is the governments duty, regardless of the immediate economic implications. This has to be done for the long term benefit of our country. Failure to do this, is the goverment failing to do its job. Monopolies restrict people's freedom, and to sacrifice freedom for econoic reasons is not only wrong, but against the principles of the people that created and gave their lives for this country.

Microsoft has been stifling innovation by sucking up companies that had been creating innovative technology, to bring them under the umbrella of a corporation whose main focus is to monopolize every segment of the software market, not on creating innovative and quality products. To those that truly understand technology, the inadequacies of their software is so obvious as to not even warrant debate. Only those that do not understand the technology, or that have remained ignorant, sheltered in a world where there is only Microsoft software, do not see the deficiencies in their products.

Microsoft has used a blunt and powerful instrument to monopolize the marketplace, while the proposed judgement attempts to finesse its way to correcting the problems. This will not work. Attempting to micromanage the individual issues that led to Microsoft's monopoly will fail. All that will be done is to ensure that Microsoft and their extensive resources find loopholes in the agreement that allow them to continue their illegal business practices.

I am very upset with the settlement of this case as it shows that money and lawyers, and not citizens or principles, yield the most power in this country. It is not the justice department's job to engage in economic prediction, nor base their actions on such things. The justice department should make the punishment fit the crime and not let other peripheral factors dictate their actions.

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